



Title:

## SHIPPING PLATFORM

### BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

#### Field of the Invention

[0001] The present invention relates generally to a shipping platform for transport on container ships and the like, and more specifically to an open shipping platform for transporting large vehicles and the like type of cargo and which is adjustable with respect to adjacent containers so as to enable containers to be disposed on top thereof.

#### Description of the Related Art

[0002] Open shipping platforms, which have been used to transport vehicles or the like, have had to be left to last and placed on top of the uppermost containers of the containers stacked into the holds and decks of container ships.

### SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0003] A first aspect of the invention resides in a shipping platform comprising: a platform; and adjustable length pillars provided at either side and at both ends of the platform, the adjustable length pillars each having an upper cross-member interconnecting the upper ends thereof.

[0004] This platform is also provided with underside cross-members which are rigidly connected with the platform and which extend parallel with the upper cross-members. The upper and lower cross-members are provided with openings by which the upper and lower cross-members are engageable with side-by-side connection rails or beams used to interconnect containers.

[0005] The upper and lower cross-members are provided with apertures which are so sized and located as to allow releasable interconnection with the connection rails they are engageable with. Further, the adjustable length pillars each comprise a base member rigidly connected with the platform and a telescopic member which

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